

Come and find out more about green living when Karen and Matthew Palmer open their doors to the public on Sustainable House Day 2010.

catch up.



THE LITTLE HOUSE THAT COULD

Have a stickybeak into homes like Karen Palmer's and you'll soon see the benefits of living in a sustainable abode.

KAREN PALMER, A BUILDING DESIGNER BY TRADE, took on the task of creating a sustainable family home in the Adelaide suburbs when her first child was just 2 years old. Her goal was to build a small house that would run on the smell of an oily rag. What she has now (aside from a second child and a new business, Size Wise Design) is a 90 square metre home that cost just \$120,000 to build from scratch and which uses less than a dollar a day in electricity. "Our energy bills in the first year were \$160," she says. On Sunday 12 September, Karen and her husband Matthew will be opening their home to the public as part of Sustainable House Day 2010. And they're not the only ones. Head to www.sustainablehouseday.com and you'll find listings for open houses in every state and territory. According to Karen, it's well worth poking your nose in. "Being in a sustainable house really helps explain how it all works."